

A TRIBUTE TO THE ARCADIA HIGH
SCHOOL BAND

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Arcadia High School Band from Valley County, Nebraska. On May 26, 2011 the band visited Washington, D.C. for a special concert at the National World War II Memorial. Performing 12 patriotic anthems at the memorial, the talented group of students captured an audience from around the world who were visiting our nation's capital.

The Arcadia High School Band traces its roots back to 1930 when 17 students joined. Today, 77% of the student body plays in the band. Throughout the years, the band has regularly performed outside of the Arcadia community from Mount Rushmore, South Dakota to Grand Island, Nebraska. For 8 of the last 10 years the band received the highest rating at District Music Contests, including a standing ovation and superior ratings from all three judges.

Led by Mr. Randall Warner, the Arcadia High School Band exemplifies a long standing commitment to excellence in musical performance and high academic standards. The band makes their community and the State of Nebraska extremely proud.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the exceptional talent and dedication of the Arcadia High School Band.

TRIBUTE TO PIKEVILLE MEDICAL
CENTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a world class hospital and the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers' 2010-2011 "Hospital of the Year," Pikeville Medical Center.

Each year, the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers selects a recipient of its hospital of the year award. This year, Pikeville Medical Center became the Nation's only repeat winner over hundreds of applicants from across the country. I am proud to report that this top notch institution in the heart of Eastern Kentucky was judged to be the nation's most patient friendly hospital.

This distinguished honor truly reflects an unwavering commitment to world class treatment by every one of Pikeville Medical Center's over 2,000 employees and 250 physicians. The honor of being named "Hospital of the Year" for the second consecutive year is simply the latest example of the Pikeville Medical Center's stellar reputation among its peers and fellow medical professionals; in fact, the hospital has been named the #1 hospital to work for in Kentucky in Best Places To Work for three straight years, and has been nationally recognized for best practices and out-

standing doctors by numerous organizations. Needless to say, the Pikeville Medical Center is clearly committed to their noble mission of being a "quality, regional health care in a Christian environment."

For 86 years, Pikeville Medical Center has served as a beacon of healing for the people of Pike County, Kentucky and the surrounding regions. Since its humble beginnings in 1924, the hospital has expanded numerous times to meet regional needs. Today, the Medical Center complex boasts many specialties and services such as its award winning cancer center, state-of-the-art Diagnostic Equipment, 4-D Echocardiograms, a cardiac rehabilitation center, a sleep studies laboratory, and a neonatal intensive care unit. The Pikeville Medical Center has also fashioned a teaching program that is second to none and will ensure that our talented young medical professionals will not have to leave Eastern Kentucky to learn and develop their skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a fine example of patient care and community wellness, the Pikeville Medical Center. I congratulate the Center on this latest achievement and wish the employees and hospital leadership many more years of success.

H.J. RES. 68 AND H.R. 2278

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered two bills that focused on United States involvement in Libya. Both failed to adequately address our role in that country.

H.J. Res. 68 is the less objectionable of the two. I reluctantly supported this Resolution because it reaffirmed the United States limited participation in an international coalition to deal with the humanitarian crisis in Libya and bars all funds from being used to deploy, establish, or maintain a presence of Members of the Armed Services or private security contractors on the ground. It also sets a clear deadline for U.S. involvement there.

What I would have liked to see offered was the Resolution sponsored by Senators KERRY and MCCAIN. The Kerry/McCain Resolution goes further and clearly defines our interests and objectives in the region.

It makes clear that it is the sense of this Congress that we will support the Libyan people and political reform in the country; it clearly defines our goal in Libya as the removal of Mummur Qaddafi and his family from power through the NATO mission outlined by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973, which includes diplomatic and economic pressures; and that we must support the Libyan people transition to a representational democracy.

H.R. 2278 would prevent the Department of Defense from using any funds to support NATO in its mission to stop the slaughter of civilians by a dictator who has time and again made clear his disregard for the lives of innocents.

Of equal concern is the fact that H.R. 2278 sets an unfortunate precedent and undermines

key global institutions by turning our backs to a unified call for intervention.

Preventing U.S. action would endanger the recent display of democratic aspirations by so many in the region and only emboldens the other despots of the world such as Syria, Iran, and Yemen, suggesting there are no consequences for murdering peaceful protesters.

As I have said from the start, I would support thoughtful legislation that acknowledges the U.S. has chosen to answer the cries of the innocent Libyan people, but makes clear that our commitment to their aspirations of self governance is not open-ended, and which clearly defines our goals and—more importantly—limits. That is why I voted for H.J. Res. 68 and look towards the Kerry/McCain Resolution to carry the day because it sets the right tone.

STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT
OBAMA'S MAY 19 SPEECH ON U.S.
POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a very important issue which has generated much debate and misinformation in recent weeks. When President Obama articulated his vision for U.S. policy in the Middle East on May 19th at the State Department, he laid out an historic call to support the democratic aspirations of people living under decades of autocracy and tyranny.

President Obama also reaffirmed our commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. He restated the need for a negotiated settlement, and he opposed the Palestinian attempt to unilaterally seek UN recognition of their statehood. He also called for a resolution of the disputed lands based on the "1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps."

President Obama's call to use the borders that existed before the Six Day War as a basis for future borders was also made by President George W. Bush and President Bill Clinton. This is an almost two-decade old U.S. position. This policy position is well understood as the mainstream position by every diplomat, pundit, and scholar familiar with this issue.

The position is shared by Israel's own Defense Minister, and by Israel's former Prime Minister. It is shared by Israel's Opposition Leader, and it is shared by a majority of the Israeli public.

The issue of a negotiated peace settlement between Israelis and Palestinians is far too important to cede to those who criticize the President for their own political aims. We must emphasize the facts. Support for Israel as a secure Jewish democratic state is a bipartisan priority, and this Administration has done at least as much as any other to expand and improve our security cooperation and diplomatic ties with her.

I call on each of my colleagues to refrain from distorting or misrepresenting this issue, and to join together in support of a negotiated settlement that will bring peace and prosperity to a region riddled with conflict for far too long.